

# Talon



**Building Named for Hoosier Hero**

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**Indiana Dignitaries Invade Eagle Base**



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## Civil Affairs Advises Command - Local Populace

Story by Capt. Aaron Jenkins  
*TFE Public Affairs*

The Civil Affairs, G5, section advises the commander on civil and military operations in the theater.

The G5 section also addresses all of the military issues that affect civilians and the civilian issues that affect the military.

Civil Affairs is under the leadership of Lt. Col. Bill Welcher, Task Force Eagle G5.

Welcher's G5 philosophy is, "Not to give fish but to teach how to fish."

He feels that we can make more of an impact by teaching the Bosnians to help each other.

For many of the G5 staff, this is their first experience in civil military affairs.

Maj. Todd Harless, Deputy G5 stated, "I am enjoying it.

This allows me to interact with civic leaders on a daily basis as well as interacting with the international community."

Welcher said, "This is what the National Guard is all about, being involved with the community."

The local nationals that work for the G5 section come from very diverse backgrounds.

Welcher stated, "You have soldiers

that were fighting against each other, not so long ago.

Now they are working together for a united Bosnia."

Working in the civil affairs arena offers rewarding experiences for those involved.

Recently, G5 delivered a CONEX to a local soup kitchen so that they could store gardening equipment and teach local children to grow their own vegetables.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gerald Quinn, the section NCOIC, stated, "it gives the children a sense of responsibility."

The section has had many opportunities to touch the community and learn a lot about themselves as well as the people that they are here to assist.

"The work is hard but rewarding,"



Members of the G5 section stand by a CONEX that was delivered to a local soup kitchen for storage purposes.



Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Sammy Davis clasps hands and offers words of encouragement to Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Severe

stated Quinn. "Each day I realize that no matter how bad it gets, I am helping people. I also realize how blessed I am, being able to provide for my family," added Quinn.

"The people of Bosnia are hardworking people who live and die trying to make things better for their children. I would not trade anything for the experiences I have gained here," said Harless.

# Building Dedicated to Indiana Hero

Story by Nedima Hadziibrisevic

*TFE Public Affairs Media Specialist*

Throughout the history of the United States' participation in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, each rotation has named a camp or a building after a Medal of Honor recipient.

In an emotionally overwhelming event filled with patriotism and pride Brig.Gen. Timothy Wright, commander of the Multinational Task Force (North), had the distinct honor of dedicating the most significant and prominent building on Eagle Base, the Whitehouse, to one of the nation's heroes, Indiana's favorite son and Medal of Honor recipient, Sgt. Sammy L. Davis.

The event was even more unique since Davis attended it in person.

The ceremony in front of the headquarters of the MNTF (North) began with a prayer and the National Anthem performed by 2Lt. Paul Karbley, Company D, Task Force Scorpion. Following that, was the presentation by the MNTF (North) commander.

"For 229 years, the United States Army has served and defended the cause of freedom. Many brave Americans, like Sammy Davis, have made sacrifices so that liberty may triumph over tyranny," said Wright in his remarks at the solemn ceremony.

"Sammy, your bravery, dedication to duty and care for your fellow man sets the highest standard for every soldier. You make each and everyone of us proud to wear this uniform and proud to be Americans."

In addition to the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division soldiers, the event was attended by the State of Indiana delegation Davis was part of.

After narration of the Medal of Honor citations done

by Lt. Col. Wayne Black, Chief of the Joint Visitors Bureau, the ceremony was concluded by a speech from Davis himself.

"I do not have any words that would properly describe how I feel," Davis stated. "I have always tried to wear this for my brothers who were with me when I earned it and for you because you are the part of this. Thank you."



Sammy L. Davis was born in Dayton, Ohio, and entered military service in Indianapolis, Indiana. He is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor and heroism, for his actions on November 18, 1967.

The citation for the award reads as follows:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action and at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty.

Sgt. Davis (then Pfc.) distinguished himself during the early morning hours while serving as a cannoner with battery C at a remote fire support base. At approximately 0200 hours, the fire support base was under heavy enemy mortar attack. Simultaneously, an estimated reinforced Viet Cong battalion launched a fierce ground assault upon the fire support base. The attacking enemy drove to within 25 meters of the friendly positions. Only a river separated the Viet Cong from the fire support base. Detecting a nearby enemy position, Sgt. Davis seized a machine gun and provided covering fire for his gun crew, as they attempted to bring direct artillery fire on the enemy.

Despite his efforts, an enemy recoilless rifle round scored a direct hit upon the artillery piece. The resultant blast hurled the gun crew from their weapon and blew Sgt. Davis into a foxhole. He struggled to his feet and returned to the howitzer, which was burning furiously. Ignoring repeated warnings to seek cover, Sgt. Davis rammed a shell into the gun.

Disregarding a withering hail of enemy fire directed against his position, he aimed and fired the howitzer, causing it to roll backwards and knock Sgt. Davis violently to the ground. Undaunted, he returned to the weapon to fire again when an enemy mortar round exploded within 20 meters of his position, injuring him painfully. Nevertheless, Sgt. Davis loaded the artillery piece, aimed and fired. Again, he was knocked to the ground by the recoil. In complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Davis loaded and fired three more shells into the enemy. Disregarding his extensive injuries and his inability to swim, Sgt. Davis picked up an air mattress and struck out across the deep river to rescue three wounded men, he stood upright and fired into the dense vegetation to prevent the Viet Cong from advancing. While the most seriously wounded soldier was helped across the river, Sgt. Davis protected the two remaining casualties until he could pull them across the river to the fire support base. Though suffering from painful wounds, he refused medical attention, joining another howitzer crew which fired at the large Viet Cong force until it broke contact and fled.

Sgt. Davis' extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life, are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.



# Hoosier Dignitaries Invade Eagle Base

Story by Nedima Hadziibrisevic  
TFE Public Affairs  
Media Specialist

Illustrating support and care for those serving your country is always more distinctive when done in person. In this manner, the party of about forty prominent political figures, elected state officials, civic leaders and media from the State of Indiana demonstrated their appreciation to the soldiers of the Task Force Eagle during their three-day stay on Eagle



Kernan, the First Lady of the State of Indiana, represented him and conveyed his regards and thankfulness to the troops. Earlier last month, Kernan visited a number of schools and collected letters for the soldiers from fourth grade students.

Along with Mrs. Umbarger and Mrs. Wright, who accompanied her on these trips, they talked to the students about the Guard and sacrifices service members make.

"These kids took time to write letters to our troops and I even got to meet a couple kids who have parents here in Bosnia, and that was a real thrill," Kernan explained. "I left every school, every group of kids, with a profound sense that students know that the men and women of our Guard are heroes."

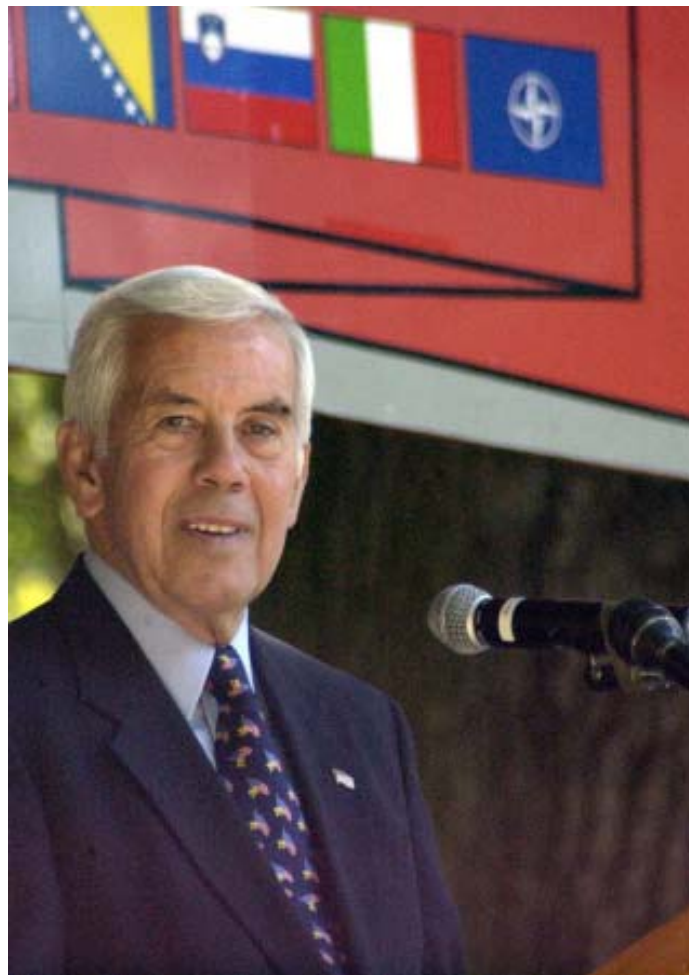
Base.

Richard Lugar, the United States Senator from the State of Indiana, was among the dignitaries who passed on greetings from home and expressed gratitude to the Indiana

National Guard soldiers deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Thank you for your service in the Indiana National Guard," said Lugar during his address to the troops in Minue Park. "Thank you for your service to the people of this recovering part of the world. And thank you for the sacrifices to duty that you and your loved ones have made so willingly for our great nation."

Since the Indiana governor was not able to be in BiH for the visit his wife, Mrs. Maggie



Mr. Sammy Davis, Medal of Honor recipient, Maj. Gen. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant Gen. of the State of Indiana, and Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais, commander of the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mechanized), also spoke to the troops during ceremony in Minue Park which concluded with Lugar's presentation of signed paintings of the Indiana State House to five exceptional soldiers.

Throughout the visit soldiers on several occasions had an opportunity to talk and socialize with the delegation members.

**Top: Mrs. Maggie Kernan hands out letters and chocolate from South Bend to Indiana Soldiers. Above: Senator Richard Lugar speaks to members of the 38th Division.**





"I think it was very nice that everyone came this way to see us, and I understand

they brought us a little piece of home in the form of newspapers from the various hometowns," said Maj. Anita

Thurston, G8 Comptroller Office, who used this opportunity to con-gratulate Brig. Gen. Omer Tooley on

his promotion and talk to some of the other visitors.

Representatives of major companies and businesses took part in this trip as well with the intent of meeting with their employees and showing their appreciation to the citizens soldiers,

"I was hoping to meet with some of our employees that are here. I have done that and I've enjoyed it," said George Fleetwood, President of the SBC. "I am very proud to be here, and very proud of what our service people are doing here to maintain this peacekeeping force."



In addition to learning about Eagle Base, dignitaries were told more about the country and its history, and the Indiana National Guard peacekeeping mission here. Their trip included a tour of the



**Top:** The soldiers of Task Force Eagle go on a run led by Senator Lugar and Brig. Gen. Wright. **Above Left:** Sgt. Davis signs a photograph for Sgt. 1st Class Richard Tarr. **Above Middle:** 2nd Lt. Ben Tooley greets his father, Brig. Gen. Tooley, here with the Indiana delegation. **Above:** Spc. Jason Young and Mr. Brandt Hershman listen to the singing of the national anthem.

Srebrenica Memorial and Cemetery in Potocari and a visit to the town of Bratunac.

This provided them with an opportunity to experience local cuisine, traditional folklore and a singing performance, as well as a visit to the Bratunac Liaison and Observation Team house where they learned about this new concept in peacekeeping operations in the country.

The visit ended with a building dedication ceremony, during which the Task Force Command Building, or White House was named after Sgt. Sammy Davis, Medal of Honor recipient.

"I think that people back home really do not exactly know what it is like when they hear the word 'Bosnia'," said Spc. John Coulter, Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 152<sup>nd</sup> Infantry. "They may not be as educated about it, so hopefully, when a senator or someone like that comes over here, they can enlighten other people back home and tell them what it is like firsthand."

# Fit, Well Fed and Rested Soldiers More Effective - But Leadership Helps

Story by Maj. Ronald Howes  
TFME Mental Health Professional

So, here's your military strategy and tactics final exam:

"What is the most effective Psychological Operations mission?"

- Bombard the enemy forces with Def Leppard or Garth Brooks music on loud speakers for 72 hours.
- Bombard the enemy forces with girl scout cookies for 72 hours
- Bombard the enemy with pictures of Brittany Spears.

The correct answer is "a."

The reason for which ought to be obvious to all you studs and studettes who've ever decided to spend a weekend without going to sleep.

Sleep deprivation for 72 will cause most people regardless of their level of physical fitness and other factors to begin to break down.

At 72 hours most soldiers will perform very poorly on any kind of memory or concentration test and also perform at least 25% less than their optimum on physical endurance tests. During my active duty military years (7 of them) mostly spent with Infantry Units, it has been my personal pleasure to see more than one high speed young trooper try to impress a senior ranking NCO or Officer by staying up day after day to show how tough they were.

One of my fondest memories is watching a Company Commander pass out flat on his face from sleep exhaustion, while he was briefing his Brigade Commander.

Napoleon Bonaparte said that a man needs 4 hours of sleep, a woman 5, and a child 6.

But of course, he lost the battle of

Waterloo to Wellington who usually slept 8.

All kidding aside, combat rest/sleep discipline is 4 hours in 24; and with that soldiers can be kept in sustained action up to a week.

However, even with the 4 hours of disciplined rest, performance degrades after 3 days.



Sleep isn't the only factor in producing a soldier that functions at his best.

The list is long, but the top 5 are golden rules for survival: Hydration (this means water discipline), Nutrition (the MREs have loads of calories), Conditioning (studs last longer than duds), and Knowledge (people who know more about the mission, enemy, terrain, tactics, and conditions.)

Smart, well briefed and well trained soldiers survive longer on the battle field. The last, but certainly not the least factor is Teamwork.

This isn't rocket science.

Guess what, soldiers that get along, work well together, coordinate their efforts, and have leadership that they respect survive better on the battlefield.

For officers, it's simple. It's not enough to be tactically and technically smart. Soldiers are not machines; they tend to follow leaders.

I remember my first Brigade

Commander telling me that he rarely ever gave orders. He viewed officers that gave orders as weak and ineffective.

He gave directions and guidance and the soldiers in his Brigade came through over and over again for him.

They loved the old man.

He took care of them like they were his sons and daughters and also trained them to the point of exhaustion.

The Confederate General Longstreet said, "you can't lead from behind."

Talking to your soldiers instead of at them is the difference between Commanders and Leaders. You figure it out.

For NCOs it's even more critical. Beating the stress demon and getting the most out of your soldier's means leading by example.

Never ask a soldier to do anything you won't do yourself.

You'll get loads more out of soldiers doing things with them than standing off to the side telling them how to do what you want done.

You are critical to the survival of the soldier on the battlefield because you've learned the lessons and walked the walk.

Now it's time to bring up a new generation with the wisdom and experience you've earned with the mistakes that you've made.

Of all the 5 top rules for managing and beating the stress demon, the only one that's non-quantifiable is leadership.

Well-fed, well-rested, well-trained and equipped soldiers with lousy leaders fall out first and sustain the highest casualty rates.

Average soldiers with little sleep and not enough food consistently win the big battles if they have great leaders.

Go figure.



# Life Can Be More Than an Endless Loop - Days Not Just "Groundhog Days"

**Commentary by Chaplain (Lt. Col.)**

**William Stang**

*TFE Chaplain*

As we waited for a flight to Kosovo to provide Catholic Coverage there, I noticed that the PAX terminal was showing the movie "Groundhog Day" with Bill Murray.

When I saw it years ago, I'd thought it not much more than a clever movie.

The last several months, however, I have heard several of our soldiers talk about this period of our deployment as "Groundhog Day".

Every morning we get up to the same sounds, the same scenes, the same people and the same tasks.

We seem doomed, like Bill Murray, to endlessly repeat the same events. So I watched with new interest.

Murray's character was a very gifted but selfish person.

As he realizes that he is stuck, he uses his gifts to ridicule people he does not like and indulge his vices.

Because people receive as they give, he finds no happiness in being selfish.

He is frustrated to be mired in what he sees as a dull little town with dull little people.

He wants to be where there is excitement and he can do "something important."

As selfish people do, he blames his frustration on everyone but himself.

Deciding to end it; he kidnaps the Groundhog and drives them both off a cliff.

But he wakes up the next morning to again hear, "I got you babe."

Finally, in desperation, he starts to study the people around him.

He begins to realize that the problem was in his selfish attitude.

As he stops concentrating on himself and really observes the people around him, he discovers that the "boring" town is full of

fascinating people and events.

He finds friends by being a friend. As he listens to the meaning in other people's lives he finds meaning in his own.

The reason this movie appeals to so many people is that it accurately portrays life.

Many times in life we are "stuck" doing the "same old, same old".

But this is actually an opportunity. In such a stable period we don't have to spend a lot of time planning tomorrow.

We can use that time to study the people and world around us. We can use it to grow intellectually or as human beings.

We can use it to make contributions to individual lives.

We are not wasting time here; we are doing something vital.

We are living an event that will one day appear in the history books. We are part of an Army that mobilized for peace, not war.

That has seldom happened in history.

Before SFOR arrived, thousands died here each month.

Shells murdered children just up the road from us.

Millions of refugees overwhelmed nearby countries.

Several times in the past, wars have engulfed Europe, starting with instability in this region.

The last such even engulfed America.

The children are now safe; democracy is more secure.

The quiet peace around us shows that we have done our job well. Seldom has boredom been such a blessing.

Through the winter of 1777-78, George Washington's army suffered from cold, hunger and monotony as they sat for six months at Valley Forge.

They fought no enemies and won

no honors.

They used the time to gain discipline, learn teamwork and build individual integrity.

They became the Army that forced General Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in 1781.

What kept the Continental Army from disintegrating through the monotony and desperate external conditions of Valley Forge?

George Washington gave credit to God and prayer.

A Hessian Drill master with the Continental Army said that it was the "Spirit of Liberty" in the heart of each soldier.

Both were correct.

As Chaplain I see the power of prayer for finding wisdom, patience and strength.

As a soldier I have been proud to be part of the peace we are building here.

And as an American I have been truly blessed to see that the "Spirit of Liberty" is alive and well in the hearts of the soldiers of Task Force Eagle.



**Groundhog Day, starring Bill Murray and Andie McDowell, was released in 1993.**



# Eye of the Cyclone



Above: Soldiers from Team Cobra helped locals clean the town square in Bratunac in preparation for the visit from the Indiana dignitaries. Above Right: This flight simulator in Germany allows aviators to refine and upgrade their skills. Right: A Bosnian man tells visitors about the massacre in Srebrenica. Below: A soldier clears barbed wire to allow his team access to a suspected weapons cache. Below Right: Staff Sgt. Howard Porter enjoys the opportunity to wear his civilian clothes on Labor Day.

